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1861
House
EXTRA SESSION

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BY THE SENATE,

MAY 14th, 1861.

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RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS

OF THE

House of Delegates of Maryland,

WITH

SENATE AMENDMENTS.

EXTRA SESSION, 1861.

FREDERICK:

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1861.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, In the judgment of the General Assembly of Maryland, the war now waged by the Government of the United States upon the people of the Confederate States, is unconstitutional in its origin, purposes and conduct; repugnant to civilization and sound policy; subversive of the free principles upon which the Federal Union was founded, and certain to result in the hopeless and bloody overthrow of our existing institutions; and,

WHEREAS, The people of Maryland, while recognizing the obligation of their State, as a member of the Union, to submit in good faith to the exercise of all the legal and constitutional powers of the General Government, and to join as one man in fighting its authorized battles, do reverence, nevertheless, the great American principle of self-government, and sympathize deeply with their Southern brethren in their noble and manly determination to uphold and defend the same; and,

WHEREAS, Not merely on their own account and to turn away from their own soil the calamities of civil war, but for the blessed sake of humanity, and to avoid the wanton shedding of fraternal blood, in a miserable contest which can bring nothing with it but sorrow, shame and desolation, the people of Maryland are enlisted, with their whole hearts, on the side of reconciliation and peace: now, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the State of Maryland owes it to her own self-respect and her respect for the Constitution, not less than to her deepest and most honorable sympathies, to register this, her solemn protest, against the war which the Federal Government has declared upon the Confederate States of the South, and our sister and neighbor Virginia,

and to announce her resolute determination to have no part or lot, directly or indirectly, in its prosecution.

Resolved, That the State of Maryland earnestly and anxiously desires the restoration of peace between the belligerent sections of the country, and the President, authorities, and people of the Confederate States, having, over and over again, officially and unofficially, declared that they seek only peace and self-defence, and to be let alone, and that they are willing to throw down the sword, the instant that the sword now drawn against them shall be sheathed, the Senators and Delegates of Maryland do beseech and implore the President of the United States to accept the olive branch which is thus held out to him; and in the name of God and humanity, to cease this unholy and most wretched and unprofitable strife, at least until the assembling of Congress in Washington shall have given time for the prevalence of cooler and better counsels.

Resolved, That the State of Maryland desires the peaceful and immediate recognition of the independence of the Confederate States, and hereby gives her cordial assent thereunto, as a member of the Union: entertaining the profound conviction that the willing return of the Southern people to their former Federal relations is a thing beyond hope, and that the attempt to coerce them will only add slaughter and hate to impossibility.

Resolved, That the present military occupation of Maryland, being for purposes, in the opinion of this Legislature, in flagrant violation of the Constitution, the General Assembly of the State, in the name of her people, does hereby protest against the same, and against the oppressive restrictions and illegalities with which it is attended; calling upon all good citizens, at the same time, in the most earnest and authoritative manner, to abstain from all violent and unlawful interference, of every sort, with the troops in transit through our territory, or quartered among us, and patiently and peacefully to leave to time and reason the ultimate and certain re-establishment and vindication of the right.

Resolved, That under existing circumstances, it is inexpedient to call a Sovereign Convention of the State at this time, or to take any measure for the immediate organization or arming of the militia.

SENATE AMENDMENTS.

And be it further Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consist of four members of the Senate and four members of the House of Delegates, four of which Committee, (to be selected of themselves,) shall as early as possible, wait on the President of

the United States at Washington, and the other four of said Committee shall wait on the President of the Southern Confederacy, for the purpose of laying the foregoing resolutions before them ; and that said Committee be, and is hereby especially instructed to obtain, if possible, a general cessation of hostilities, now impending, until the meeting of Congress in July next, in order that said Body may, if possible, arrange for an adjustment of existing troubles by means of negotiation, rather than the sword.

Resolved, That said Committee consist of Messrs. Brooke, Yellott, McKaig, and Lynch, of the Senate, and Messrs. ——, ——, —— and ——, of the House of Delegates.

Resolved, That said Committee be requested to report, if practicable, to the General Assembly, on the fifth day of June next.

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